

Arthur for his efficient work in arranging for their meetings, and the club adjourned to meet next year at 9 A. M. on the second day of the meeting of the A. A. A. S.

Entertainment of the Botanists at Buffalo.

Fortunately for the Botanical Club of the Association, Buffalo possesses a very active Botanical Club, and the members of this company vied with each other in devising and executing plans for the entertainment of the visiting botanists. Time did not allow the placing on the program of a tithe of the generous ideas their hearts suggested, but their spirit was shown by the numberless little things which were done to make pleasant the meetings. Three special rooms were set apart for the accommodation of the club, and the unavoidable school-room bareness was relieved by the easy chairs, pictures and statuary which thoughtfulness had provided.

The special reception announced upon the program was held on Thursday evening, from 8 to 11, at the residence of Hon. David F. Day, on Cottage street. With a view to making strangers feel personally welcome, the local club took the trouble to issue special cards of invitation, supplementing thus the general invitation, and in response to these two hundred and fifty cards fully as many people assembled at Mr. Day's hospitable home. Thursday had found the ladies of the club busy in decorating the four spacious rooms given to the reception. The mantels were banked with native flowers, and vases, bowls and dishes held a profusion of wild blossoms, some of which puzzled those not acquainted with the Buffalo flora to name. Of all these, most honored was *Epipactis Helleborine*, the rare orchid of Syracuse and Buffalo. Many of the native flowers were supplied by Mr. Day's grounds—which constitute, by the way, a botanical garden of no mean proportions—while others represented much active collecting by the members of the club. Beside all these, every available place was filled with exotics, whose graceful foliage or peculiar forms added much to the beauty of the rooms. The blooming of a *Cereus* was awaited with interest, but in vain, as it did not open until the following night. The center piece on the well-laden table was a huge block of ice hollowed out and filled with wide-open water lilies.

As everything possible in the way of decoration was done to make the rooms beautiful, so was everything possible done to make the guests feel at ease and to relieve the too common stiff-

ness of a formal reception. So admirably did these plans succeed that every one spent a most delightful evening, and many pleasant acquaintances sprang up between the guests and their entertainers, which will not soon be forgotten.

The prompt and efficient service in the bountiful supper-room added not a little to the pleasure of a charming evening. Certainly the thanks of the botanists present were due to the local club, and especially to the distinguished botanist who placed his house at the disposal of the club.

The majority of the botanists went on the excursion to Niagara Falls on Saturday, and thoroughly enjoyed the grand scenery and varied flora which surrounds the Falls, especially that of Goat Island. The rare *Hypericum Kalmianum*, *Gymnostomum curvirostrum* and *Fissidens grandifrons* were the chief finds.

On Monday afternoon at 1:30 the club embarked on the steamer *Huntress* for the hour's ride to Point Abino, on the Canada shore. The day was cloudy and promised to be delightful for water travel, but half an hour out a hard rain set in, which kept the passengers busy avoiding the rills of water which coursed over the deck in various directions with the roll of the boat. Cruising off shore for half an hour until the rain ceased gave pleasant time for social enjoyment and improving the acquaintances begun at the reception. As soon as practicable the boat drew up to the long pier, built for loading sand-barges, and the merry crowd disembarked. Point Abino is a sandy cape backed by a range of low dunes, so that as soon as the rain ceased the surface was dry and comfortable for walking. At the end of the pier the party divided, some going under the leadership of Prof. Kellicott to a sphagnum swamp near by, while others under the guidance of Mr. Day walked along the shore towards the point. Here *Hypericum Kalmianum* and *Calamintha glabella* were the rarities, while a magnificent growth of Junipers attracted much attention.

After a ramble of an hour and a half, the warning blast from the boat's whistle brought in the stragglers. Scarcely were the last ones aboard when down came the considerate rain. But little cared we who had had our full time ashore, and still less cared we when sandwiches (assorted styles), cake and lemonade in lavish abundance were served. The discussion of deep botanical problems mingled with jest and laughter in consonance with the varying moods of the knots about the deck. No witness of the scene could doubt the thorough enjoyment of it by all. By dusk the boat touched her wharf (again the rain ceased) and we bade our hosts good night and good-bye, with many assurances

of our pleasure in the excursion so admirably planned and so happily executed.

As the Botanical Club of the Association has never before been so well attended, so also has it never before been so hospitably cared for and so happily entertained as at Buffalo. What more can they do for it in 1896?

Essay toward a revision of *Dodecatheon*.*

ASA GRAY.

Probably every botanist who has turned his attention to this genus has suspected it to be of more than one species. But those who have attempted to deal with the numerous now extant forms have been baffled in their endeavors to distinguish and define them. In the Synoptical Flora of North America I could do no better than to arrange the forms loosely under seven varieties. If I have now done better in the attempted discrimination of five species the credit is largely due to indications and specimens supplied to me by two western correspondents, Mr. Suksdorf, of Washington Territory, and Prof. L. F. Henderson, of Oregon, to the latter especially in pointing out to me the anomalous character of the form which I have accordingly designated by his name.

If the assigned characters hold out it will be in good part by their fruits that we shall know them; and fruit is rare in our specimens, so that many of them can only be guessed at, and the value of the present scheme is still to be tested. But present indications point to five species, the principal characters of which are exhibited in the subjoined

CLAVIS DODECATHEORUM.

A. Short filaments manifest, being inserted at the very orifice of the short corolla-tube, and distinctly monadelphous: leaves with tapering base.

1. Capsule acute, coriaceous, opening at apex by valves:

Eastern.

D. MEADIA.

2. Capsule obtuse, coriaceous, opening at or from the apex by valves: Western.

Leaves from narrowly or elongated to obovate-spatulate: capsule oblong to cylindraceous, usually much surpassing the calyx.

D. JEFFREYI.

Leaves obovate or oval with cuneate base, short: capsule globular, hardly surpassing the calyx.

D. ELLIPTICUM.

* Read before the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S., Buffalo meeting, 1886.